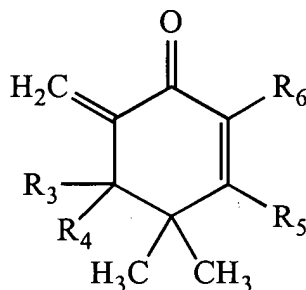


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-46. (canceled)

47. (new) A method for inhibiting or blocking molecular generating and/or inducing functions of molecules comprising contacting said molecules with an inhibiting or blocking effective amount of a compound represented by the formula 3-a:



wherein:

i) R₃, R₄, R₅ and R₆ represent independently hydrogen atom, halogen atom; C₁-C₆ alkyl group; amidino group; C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl group; C₁-C₆ alkoxy group; aryl group; allyl group; aralkyl group in which one or more C₁-C₆ alkyl groups are bound to an aromatic ring selected from the group consisting of benzene, naphthalene and anthracene ring; C₁-C₆ alkylene group; benzoyl group; cinnamyl

group; cinnamoyl group or furoyl group;

(ii) one or more of R3 and R4, and/or one or more of R5 and R6 may be a substituted or non-substituted cyclopentyl group; substituted or non-substituted cyclohexyl group; or substituted or non-substituted naphthyl group;

(iii) R5 and R6 may form a ring by binding with another condensation polycyclic hydrocarbon compound or heterocyclic compound;

(iv) one or more of R3, R4, R5 and R6 may be substituted by one or more of substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, cyano group, protected or non-protected carboxyl group, protected or non-protected hydroxyl group, protected or non-protected amino group, C1-C6 alkyl group, C1-C6 alkoxy group, C1-C7 alkoxy carbonyl group, aryl group, C3-C6 cycloalkyl group, C1-C6 acylamino group, C1-C6 acyloxy group, C2-C6 alkenyl group, C1-C6 trihalogenoalkyl group, C1-C6 alkylamino group, and C1-C6 dialkylamino group;

(v) R5 may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, C1-C6 alkyl group,

protected or non-protected carboxyl group, protected or non-protected hydroxyl group, protected or non-protected amino group, protected or non-protected C1-C6 alkylamino group, protected or non-protected C1-C6 aminoalkyl group, protected or non-protected C1-C6 alkylamino C1-C6 alkyl group, protected or non-protected hydroxyalkyl group, and C3-C6 cycloalkylamino group; and

(vi) when or more of R3, R4, R5 and R6 are alkyl groups, terminal end(s) of the alkyl group(s) may be substituted by a C3-C8 cycloalkyl group.

48. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for reduction.

49. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for scavenging free radicals.

50. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for desulfurization.

51. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for depolymerization.

52. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for improving functional and/or physical properties of surfactants.

53. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for killing sperms and/or for external contraception.

54. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for thrombolysis.

55. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for altering conformation of saccharide chains.

56. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for restoration of hair.

57. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for phase transition or for improving phase transition.

58. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for improving microphase separation structure.

59. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for improving plasticity and/or elasticity.

60. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for copolymerization or for improving copolymerization.

61. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for regulating polymerization or improving polymerization adjustment.

62. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for stabilization or improving stabilization.

63. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for preventing oxidation.

64. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for improving crystallized materials and/or amorphous materials.

65. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for improving fluidability or fluidity.

66. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for softening or improving softness or flexibility.

67. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said method is for modulating and/or improving fluorescent wavelength and/or excitation wavelength of pigments, coating materials, paints or colorants.

68. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

PATENT

method is for improving functional and/or physical properties of
low molecular substances.